

Mr. Speaker, Elaine's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Elaine for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO H.R.
3504 AND H.R. 3134

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to register my deep concerns with a pair of bills, H.R. 3504 and H.R. 3134, that were considered by the House last week. Although I was unable to be present to vote against these measures due to a medical appointment related to my recovery from two recent hip surgeries, I remain steadfastly opposed to both bills.

I am a strong supporter of increasing access to family planning and women's healthcare services. H.R. 3134, passed in the House last week by a vote of 241–187, prohibits the federal government from funding Planned Parenthood health centers for one year. This legislation is nothing more than a punitive and intrusive attack on the essential and wide-ranging healthcare services that Planned Parenthood provides. If this bill was signed into law, it would cut off essential health services for millions of women, men, and families across the United States.

Planned Parenthood serves a total of 2.7 million patients per year. It is a central provider of equitable access to healthcare for both men and women of underserved communities across the United States. One in five American women will use Planned Parenthood services at some time during her life. In Washington State, more than 103,000 women and men—nearly 65 percent of whom are at or below the poverty line—use Planned Parenthood for their family planning and basic health needs. If this legislation succeeds, millions of Americans will be stripped of this access.

Anti-choice rhetoric and controversy has surrounded federal funding for Planned Parenthood because about three percent of the services they provide include abortion services. Current law already denies Medicaid coverage for these services by almost completely barring federal funding, except in very limited circumstances. Ninety percent of the services Planned Parenthood provides are preventative health services, including lifesaving cancer screenings, blood pressure checks, birth control, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and educational efforts to avoid unwanted pregnancies and prevent abortions. Failing to fund Planned Parenthood will greatly diminish access to these services for low income women, men, and families in need of affordable healthcare and preventative screenings.

H.R. 3504 was also passed in the House last week. This bill legislation attempts to advance the anti-choice, anti-health agenda by interfering with important and difficult medical judgments that should be left up to health professionals. If enacted into law, this bill would

apply scare tactics like onerous criminal penalties on doctors and clinicians. These penalties are punitive and will intimidate women away from seeking safe, legal, standardized, evidence-based care. This legislation is not a restatement of current “born-alive” law which contained language assuring no interference in a women's right to terminate a pregnancy. Instead, this bill takes that assurance away from women. This effort signifies the latest attempt by extreme Republicans to limit women's access to safe, legal abortions. I strongly oppose this legislation that politicizes women's health and interferes in the doctor-patient relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with women across the United States to defend their access to comprehensive reproductive health options, and commend Planned Parenthood for leading in this effort.

SGT. ALVIN C. YORK—WWI
AMERICAN SOLDIER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant York is one of the most decorated American heroes of the 20th century. A Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, he is best remembered for his role in a battalion to capture German positions during an attack in 1918 in the Chatel-Chehery region of France on the war's Western Front. A German machine gun fire attack resulted in the loss of numerous Americans, leaving York in charge of the seven remaining soldiers. Leaving his men under cover, Sergeant York ventured out to silence the enemy fire.

As he describes in his diary:

Those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. There were over thirty of them in continuous action, and all I could do was touch the Germans off just as fast as I could. I was sharp shooting . . . All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had.

York's courageous assault resulted in 20 enemy casualties and 132 captures. The young soldier was immediately promoted and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. The citation describes his deeds as “fearless”, “daring” and “heroic”.

But while the description is fair, in many ways York's story is not just one of the battlefield and it is worth reflecting on York the man, not the myth.

A person of deep Christian faith, Sergeant York was converted—or as he put it “saved”—in his late teens by the Reverend M. H. Russell, known in Tennessee as the “evangelist of the mountains”.

While in his youth he admits to being inclined to sin, since joining the Church of Christ in Christian Union, York found more righteous pursuits, teaching children scripture and singing in the choir.

“I am a good deal like Paul,” York wrote in his diary. “The things I loved, I now hate.”

When, in 1917, the United States heard the call of its allies and joined the war effort, the

young churchgoer and singer received a note requiring him to report to his local board.

Despite rising to be a military hero, York was unsure whether the war was just, torn between the pacifism of his faith and patriotism for his country.

“I was bothered a plenty as to whether it was right or wrong,” he wrote. “I knew that if it was right, everything would be all right.”

“And I also knew that if it was wrong and we were only fighting for a bunch of foreigners, it would all be wrong. And I prayed and prayed. I prayed two whole days and a night out on the mountainside. And I received my assurance direct from God . . . that it was all right, and that I was coming back.”

Well Sergeant York did come back and the people of Tennessee should be very pleased.

Following the war, York returned to the region of his boyhood in the Wolf River valley of Tennessee and committed himself to public service. A national figure upon his return, he turned down offers for endorsements, public appearances and even the movie rights to his life, instead turning attention to the needs of his local community.

He lobbied the Tennessee State Legislature for funds for education and infrastructure and in 1926 established a school in Fentress County, which still stands today.

When asked how he wanted to be remembered, Sergeant York responded simply: “For improving education in Tennessee”.

We remember him for much more than that today—for his patriotic service of his nation and God.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JANE JOHNSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Jane Johnson a community organizer and mental health advocate, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Jane Johnson was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Jane Johnson has been working in the nonprofit field in Solana County for 30 years. Originally from San Mateo County, Jane was part of the team that moved Marine World Africa USA from Redwood City to Vallejo, CA in 1985. Her passion for educating children about our world's wildlife continues but has taken a bit of a back seat to providing services to at-risk children in Solano County.

Whereas, in 1989, Jane left Marine World to join the Girl Scouts. Under her tenure as CEO of the Girl Scout Council of Napa-Solano, the local organization was recognized nationally for its service to girls in underserved communities. Outreach programs focusing on self-esteem, empowerment, and job skills grew to include services in every low-income housing project in both Napa and Solano counties, juvenile hall sites in both counties, teen parenting programs, and a battered women's shelter.

Whereas, Jane currently provides leadership as the Executive Director to Solano County's